

**REMARKS**

Examiner Duong is thanked for the careful examination of the present application. The previously pending claims are canceled and new Claims 56-68 are presented. Applicants submit that new Claims 56-64 are clearly drawn to the elected invention and are allowable over the applied prior art in light of the recited special technical features, as discussed in detail below. Allowance of Claims 56-64 is therefore respectfully requested. Applicants further submit that new Claims 65-68 recite corresponding special technical features and therefore have unity of invention with allowable Claims 56-64. Withdrawal of the finding of lack of unity of invention and allowance of Claims 65-68 is therefore also respectfully requested.

In particular, of the new claims, Claims 56 and 65 are independent. Claim 56 recites a corrugated mesh sheet for treating exhaust gases of combustion engines in open channels, comprising wires, which are covered and openings, which are partially filled by a support having a median pore size of pores over 10 nm and having a median particle size over 1.4  $\mu\text{m}$  and having an area mass of said support from 20 to 200  $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ , and the BET specific surface area of said support is from 30 to 300  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ . Claim 65 recites a method for manufacturing a corrugated mesh sheet for treating exhaust gases of combustion engines in open channels, wherein wires of said mesh sheet are covered and openings of said mesh sheet are at least partially filled by a support having a median pore size of pores over 10 nm and having a median particle size over 1.4  $\mu\text{m}$  and having an area mass of said support from 20 to 200  $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ , and the BET specific surface area of said support is from 30 to 300  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ .

The subject matter recited in the new claims is fully supported by the present application's original disclosure. For example, Figs. 6-8 illustrate various

embodiments of a corrugated mesh sheet 3 having openings which are filled with a support 33. Moreover, Figs. 2-5 illustrate various embodiments of a substrate comprising at least one such corrugated mesh sheet having openings which are filled with a support, in combination with one or more other sheets.

Claim 31 was rejected as being unpatentable based on the disclosures in JP404279714A, hereinafter Miwa, U.S. Patent No. 5,997,829, hereinafter Sekine, and EP000298943A2, hereinafter Nilsson.

Miwa discloses a filter formed by a metal plate 6 and a corrugated metal plate 7. Passages are formed in the metal plates. The Official Action evidently takes the position that the corrugated metal plate 7 constitutes a corrugated mesh sheet comprising wires and openings, and that the metal plate 6 constitutes a support which at least partially fills the openings. Should the Examiner's position deviate in any way from the above discussion, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's reasoning be clarified in the next Patent Office communication.

In any event, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's position discussed above is untenable. As a first point, the English abstract of Miwa provided by the Examiner makes no mention of a mesh sheet having wires. Should the Examiner continue to take the position that Miwa discloses a mesh sheet having wires, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide a pinpoint citation to where the Miwa reference is believed to disclose such a feature.

Second, and more importantly, Miwa makes no mention of any of the passages being filled with a support. Indeed, while the English abstract of Miwa provided by the Examiner states that the plates 6 and 7 are laminated, the abstract does not state that the passages are filled with a support. Indeed, the passages are

evidently completely unobstructed. Moreover, neither Sekine nor Nilsson cure these deficiencies in Miwa.

By contrast, the corrugated mesh sheet recited in new Claim 56 includes wires, which are covered and openings which are partially filled by a support, while the method recited in new Claim 65 is directed to manufacturing a corrugated mesh sheet in which wires of said mesh sheet are covered and openings of said mesh sheet are at least partially filled by a support.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the corrugated mesh sheet recited in new Claim 56 and the method recited in new Claim 65 are both allowable over the applied prior art.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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